

Billions in Free Will Gifts From America to Europe

First Comprehensive Survey of War Relief Contributions Based on Official Figures Is Made by The New York Herald

STAGGERING to the imagination is the recently computed diameter of Betelgeuse, a star once sniffed at because it seemed so small, and equally difficult to grasp by those who are not number magicians is the bulk of gifts in money, service and goods costing money that America has sent to Europe since 1914, when the world war started.

When three great charitable organizations alone place the value of donations in round numbers at \$825,000,000 some idea of the immense sum of all the gifts may be arrived at when seeking for a total.

Huge sums, it would seem, encourage wild guessing, and there have been plenty of guesses hazarded by serious writers on the subject that have been printed in topfifty journals and absorbed without indignation by their readers. In the main, however, what has been told the public is fiction on a basis of fact.

The amateur mathematicians are under no necessity to excuse what they did in the way of computation, for they did the best they could with the data at hand. This was verisimilitude, not verity, and the facts introduced to carry their figures belonged to the border line between guess and reality.

Data From Relief Organizations

Which the Government Indorsed

Into the computation of the money value of gifts sent to troubled Europe by generous America, imaginative figures, however reasonably they might be used, are not to be admitted. The great organizations working abroad indorsed by the United States Government have each been asked to supply THE NEW YORK HERALD with the complete data of the amount of gifts distributed and the expense of this distribution. They have cheerfully complied with this request, and by the simple process of addition it is hoped that the reader will be able to ascend pretty near to the summit of the mountain that may be figured to represent America's gifts.

In this round up, so to call it, the indorsed organizations are American Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, Young Men's Christian Association, American Library Association, Jewish Welfare Board and Salvation Army.

Other well known organizations, still active, from which reports have been obtained are: American's Allies Cooperative Committee, American Artists' Committee of One Hundred, American Committee for Devastated France, American Committee for Training in Suitable Trades the Maimed Soldiers of France, American Friends of Musicians in France, American Friends Service Committee, American Memorial Hospital Committee of the American Fund for French Wounded, American Ouvreir Funds, American Students' Committee of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, American Women's Hospital, Association d'Aide aux Veuves des Militaires de la Grande Guerre, Committee for Men Blinded in Battle, Duryea War Relief, Edith Wharton War Charities, Fatherless Children of France, Food for France Fund, Franco American Committee for the Protection of the Children of the Frontier, Free Milk for France, French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund, French Tuberculosis Soldiers Relief Committee, International Kindergarten Unit, Le Paquet de l'Orphelin, Ligue Fraternelle des Enfants de France, Permanent Blind Relief War Fund, Secours Franco Americain, Smith College War Service Board, War Relief Department of the Needlework Guild of America, Women's Oversea Hospitals, American Free Milk and Relief for Italy, National Fund for War Orphans of Italy, Polish National Department, Polish Victims Relief Fund, American Jugo-Slav Relief Committee, Rumanian Relief Committee, Scottish Women's Hospitals, Serbian Aid Fund, Serbian National Defence League, Serbian Relief Committee, American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, Catherine Breshovsky Russian Relief Fund, Refugees in Russia, British War Relief Association, Children's Tin Box Fund, Joint Distribution Committee, National Allied Relief Committee, War Work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society-General Council.

While the above represent working relief societies whose audited accounts have been accessible to the public since 1917, it must be stated that they are but a sprinkling of the total number active since that year throughout the country and still functioning with more or less public recognition, support and confidence. The gifts sent over by the latter, not being catalogued or reported for by any public functionary, cannot be included in the grand total hoped to be arrived at. There appears to be no good reason for doubting the reliability of such societies, neighborhood leagues, newspaper charities, &c., but they must remain anonymous so far as crediting them with their good works is concerned, but they are themselves to blame.

Many Curious Collecting Societies

Killed by Righteous Publicity

However, they should not be classed with the many curious collecting societies for charity to Europe that started up with the commencement of the war, nearly all of which have been killed by righteous publicity. It was estimated and reported by officers of the District Attorney's office of New York city that since the breaking out of the war in 1914 there were approximately 20,000 societies engaged in war relief work in the United States, and of that number 7,500 engaged in the city of New York at one time or another, and during the period of their activities between three million and four million dollars was raised in the whole United States, of which 60 per cent. was raised in the State of New York.

War relief work, it is common knowledge, was for nearly three years after it began a vast jumble. There was no law covering the

group. The work with the French and other European girls, which developed early, has been continued since the war. In eleven months of 1920 \$285,549 was spent toward the continuance of Y. W. C. A. club centres in Italy, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, Lithuania and Serbia. This amount legitimately may be added to the report subjoined:

Expenditures overseas of the War Work Women's Christian Association of the U. S. A.

WORK IN FRANCE

Work for American women:	
Rest and recreation centres.....	\$27,807.23
Chaperonage and housing for Signal Corps units.....	61,489.91
Hostess houses, including hotels.....	278,271.89
Hostess houses at cemeteries.....	22,698.96
Work for French women:	
Payers and hostesses.....	83,016.32
Refugee work.....	12,055.19
Work for British women:	
W. A. C. with American Army—Housing and recreation.....	97,052.23
Cooperation with French organizations doing war work.....	460,129.94
Paris headquarters expenses, plus salaries, travel, uniforms and equipment of all workers in France.....	594,782.38
	\$1,637,303.95

WORK IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Activities, salaries, travel, equipment, &c.:	
Belgium—Foyers and hostesses.....	\$91,279.68
Czechoslovakia—Survey of social conditions, training schools for social workers, chaperonage of war brides.....	100,782.44
Italy—Foyers, hostesses, hostess houses, summer camps.....	60,205.28
Near East—Classes, clubs and recreation in war service centres, supplying personnel to Near East relief houses.....	65,420.05
Poland—Travelling and living expenses of Polish Gray Samaritan Unit, club and recreation work.....	78,324.88
Russia—Rural work, city centres, hostess houses, educational clubs and classes.....	313,860.10
South America—Post-war conferences of representative women.....	3,000.00
Switzerland—Relief fund for foreign students in Swiss universities.....	6,797.47
England—Cooperation with British Y. W. C. A. in centres where Americans were located.....	106,267.74
Rumania—Demonstration centre in Bucharest.....	53,707.30
Other countries.....	3,892.86
	\$2,520,841.75

Total.....\$4,158,145.70

A report of the overseas gifts of the Jewish Welfare Board by the secretary, E. Sla-

Total amount furnished in relief to Europe in cash and supplies of food and clothing from August 14, 1914, to August 31, 1920, \$217,265,588.76.

The countries in which the Red Cross worked during the war were Armenia, Austria, Albania, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Rumania, Serbia, Belgium, Central Slovakia, France, Germany, Great

Council of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association of the U. S. A. from June, 1917, to December 31, 1919:

Table of Gifts to Europe

Knights of Columbus.....	\$8,389,600.00
Jewish Welfare Board.....	670,000.00
Young Women's Christian Association.....	4,158,145.70
Young Men's Christian Association.....	25,591,413.49
Joint Distribution Committee.....	24,000,000.00
Sun Tobacco Fund.....	442,000.00
Reported by National Information Bureau:	
American Relief Administration.....	
European Children's Fund.....	825,000,000.00
War chests.....	
Smaller organizations.....	
Other war relief groups (N. I. Bureau).....	20,000,000.00
American Red Cross.....	217,265,588.76
Salvation Army.....	6,546,846.95
American Library Association (estimated).....	300,000.00
European Relief Council (Herbert Hoover, chairman, estimated).....	30,000,000.00
American Food Administration (estimated).....	100,000,000.00
American Relief Commission (estimated).....	500,000,000.00
Individual gifts, food, money, goods, 1914-1918 (estimated).....	500,000,000.00
Societies, associations, etc., now out of existence, no records (estimated).....	500,000,000.00
Money orders sent to friends in warring countries (from Postmaster General's fiscal reports for 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918).....	131,054,973.00
Total.....	\$2,393,418,567.80

latter are the War Chest of Rochester, N. Y.; the Detroit Patriotic Fund, Cleveland Community Chest, Toledo Community Chest, Cincinnati Council Social Agencies, Dayton Community War Service and others.

For a time these war chests distributed their gifts to Europe through the Charity Organization Society of New York, but it was finally judged best that their charities should have a more individual outlet, and the incorporation known as the National In-

formation Bureau was formed for that purpose. Its officers are Gustavus D. Pope, president; Paul L. Fels and Lawson Purdy, vice-presidents; William J. Schieffelin, membership chairman. In the board of directors which represents the contributing public are Paul D. Cravath, Robert W. De Forest, Chellie A. Austin, Frederick A. Geier, Cincinnati; Samuel Insull, Chicago; Walter A. May, Pittsburgh; J. D. Robinson, Toledo; C. A. Severance, St. Paul, and Roland B. Woodward, Rochester.

The National Information Bureau since October 1, 1918, has been functioning to protect the contributing public by prevention or exposure of fraudulent and unnecessary appeals, by suggestions for improving the methods of legitimate agencies and by means of indorsement and special reports.

In determining the indorsement of any organization asking contributions for the support of their work the bureau gives consideration to compliance with the following standards:

An active and responsible governing body holding regular meetings.

A legitimate purpose with no avoidable

duplication of the work of another efficiently managed organization.

Reasonable adequacy of equipment and reasonable efficiency in conduct of work.

No solicitors on commission, no "remitt or return" method, no entertainments for money raising purposes, the expenses of which exceed 30 per cent. of the gross proceeds.

Complete annual audited accounts prepared by a certified public accountant or trust company, showing receipts and disbursements classified and itemized in detail.

Admirable as these preventives are, and almost sure in effecting their object, it is nevertheless true that they were taken considerably too late for all the money and goods gifts intended for Europe to get there. Since the organization of the bureau the reputable war workers have willingly availed themselves of its protection, and the figures for the close of the war or thereabout to the present are furnished by this bureau. To discover what was sent abroad by many of the smaller organizations before this bureau was formed is well nigh hopeless. In some cases it is quite so, for the organizations kept no record, and one guess is as good as another. By applying the law of averages it is possible to obtain a reasonable conception of what was sent, but figures so arrived at cannot be used in tabular form. Really they belong to the realm of poetry, not to fact.

The millions of dollars were wasted, misapplied, misused, and to have a checkup in the money sent into the war zone does not seem to be practicable. Such a procedure would be extremely expensive, and it is doubtful if any useful purpose would be served by throwing good money after bad.

A. G. Warner's standard work on "Charities" estimates there are at least 10,000 charitable organizations in this country, collecting \$200,000,000 annually. Before the war State laws for the better supervision of charities were urged; since the war they have become a prime necessity. Only seven States have made any proper requirement as to an investigation of worthiness before incorporation is granted. Ten States require the licensing of charitable agencies concerned with the care of children. Demands for initial investigation and continuing supervision should spread over all the States. The cities also can do much, and such private agencies as the bureau instanced might be copied to advantage, while the agencies like the Chamber of Commerce, nearly 200 of which now pass on local charities, might wisely extend these activities. If the ways by which the warm hearted but glib public was victimized were given wider publicity the wholesale grafting that prevailed during the war will be impossible in the future.

RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION IN TEN NATIONS BASED ON ONE OFFICIAL REPORT.

FRANCE	\$1,637,303.95	BELGIUM	\$91,279.68	CZECHO SLOVAKIA	\$100,782.44	ITALY	\$60,205.28	NEAR EAST	\$65,420.05	POLAND	\$78,324.88	RUSSIA	\$313,860.10	SWITZERLAND	\$6,797.47	GREAT BRITAIN	\$106,267.74	RUMANIA	\$53,707.30
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situation and no regulation, supervision or control. It was in the hands of individuals, who raised money as they could and disposed of it as they saw fit. Human nature being what it is, gross frauds were practised upon the public, and the investigation referred to shed a bright and destructive beam on many of the worst of these. But it would be unjust to put all these disorganized efforts in one basket.

The pity of it is that where the honest societies without official recognition sent their money abroad no account can be given of it, because nobody knows how much they sent. In other words, these sums could only be guessed at, and it is supposed to keep guesses out of this story as far as possible.

Let us see how far it is possible. The exact figures of the \$100,000,000 or more distributed by the European Relief Council, of which Herbert Hoover is chairman, are not given out at 42 Broadway, where the council is at work, but seekers for them are referred to the secretary of the National Information Bureau, at 1 Madison avenue. There the information elicited was satisfactory only to a degree. As this bureau was organized (and of its organization more hereafter) only when the United States went into the war, the figures in its possession, available to THE NEW YORK HERALD, date from then. The Hoover committee figures and those of the other great organizations doing relief work abroad which this bureau can furnish are incomplete. They appear below, and may be used to check up the individual statements made by the various societies covering these limits of time.

Gifts of Knights of Columbus

Are Estimated at \$8,000,000

For instance, the statement made to THE NEW YORK HERALD by the Knights of Columbus is a general one. William J. McInley, supreme secretary of the K. of C., declares that while it is impossible to make any exact computation of gifts of the Knights of Columbus in money and food to the countries of Europe, he estimates that in round figures the 800,000 members of the organization have donated \$10 each to European relief causes. It is an under statement rather than an over, so declared, therefore this gift figures as \$8,000,000.

The following sums (emergency funds) are reported given out of ready money by the Knights:

In promoting cordial relations between France and the United States by erecting a statue of Lafayette at Metz in memory of American and French dead, and organizing a pilgrimage to France for the dedication of the statue.....	\$300,000
To Cardinal Mercier's Belgian rehabilitation fund (normal exchange).....	67,600
To Mme. Foch for her orphan children's fund (normal exchange).....	2,000
To Pope Benedict for the Italian welfare fund (normal exchange).....	20,000

The foregoing items make a total of \$8,889,600, which is classed by the K. of C. as specific gifts. Other definite works of charity were performed, says the statement, by the Knights in Europe. Their welfare work with the A. E. F. was not charitable, but their policy of "Everything Free" led to innumerable requests for the K. of C. to aid in charities abroad.

The work of the Young Women's Christian Association in Europe was done on a smaller scale than that of many other organizations because the service was primarily for the women serving the army in various capacities, a comparatively small

toff, puts in round figures the amount sent over in supplies of all kinds, autos, rents of buildings, comforts for soldiers, &c., from June, 1917, to July, 1920—in all, \$670,000.

This board is still doing some work abroad of registration of the dead, and it is functioning with the returned soldiers here, also.

The books and accounts of the National War Council of the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States have been audited at the headquarters in New York, Paris and London and at the six military headquarters at New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, San Antonio and Atlanta, from the commencement of its operations on April 26, 1917, to June 30, 1920. Since the war the gifts of the Y. M. C. A. have been made in the occupied region of Germany. They amount to about \$100,000 a month. From this certified report the annexed statement has been drawn:

The receipts from contributions for the first, second and third drives from miscellaneous donations, interest, &c.....\$167,085,804.29

The expenses in the U. S.\$39,778,048.25

The expenses overseas.....57,295,722.47

For work with allied armies and prisoners of war.....25,591,413.49

Post exchanges and canteens.....75,849.20

Lomes on exchange.....827,680.00

Educational.....1,515,723.06

Provision for claims.....350,000.00

Administrative.....4,810,375.88

Selecting, recruiting and training secretaries.....3,291,565.10

Balance.....\$25,400,711.94

The net amount advanced by the National War Council was \$25,591,413.49. It is divided as per the following list of disbursements:

Allied armies:

France.....\$28,388,145.11

Great Britain.....1,499,915.14

Italy.....3,683,347.76

Russia.....7,230,265.62

Other allied countries.....5,286,462.22

Prisoners of war:

In Germany.....\$129,289.29

In Austria-Hungary.....147,136.96

In Turkey.....60,073.78

In other countries.....778,803.95

American soldiers and sailors:

Adriatic-Levant.....\$13,892.99

Merchant Marine.....15,879.91

New York administration.....354,072.97

Total.....\$27,485,785.70

Deduct contributions received from outside sources, less cash and other sundry items, on hand June 30, 1920.....1,895,372.21

Net amount advanced by National War Council.....\$25,591,413.49

The comptroller of the American Red Cross reported to THE NEW YORK HERALD these figures as being the latest available:

Russia, Western Russia, Southern Russia, inclusive of the Crimea, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Latvia, Estonia and Finland.

The Red Cross is still actively serving in the States of Poland, Bulgaria and Jugoslavia, and in Vienna, Budapest and other cities of central Europe.

Movement to Put War Charities Under Federal Supervision

A movement to put war charities or war relief organizations under Federal supervision was started in the spring of 1918 by the American Victory Union, a patriotic society of New York. The director of this society drafted a bill based on facts presented to the Grand Jury by the District Attorney's office of New York and went to Washington to urge its passage.

In his statement before a Congressional committee William Bullock, director of the society, stated that there was no legislation, city, State or national, to reach people for grafting in the name of war charities and that the responsibility rested on the United States Government to legislate against such grafters.

Indorsing such legislation or otherwise approved of legislation putting these charities under Federal supervision were the following organizations: American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, American Relief Legion, American Friends of Musicians in France, American Artists Committee of One Hundred, Serbian Aid Fund, Blind and Crippled Relief Fund, British and Canadian Patriotic Fund, American Committee for Devastated France, Patriotic Service League, American Committee for Relief of Babies in Belgium, Belgian Relief Fund for Women, Children and Non-Combatants, Authors' League Fund, Polish Victims Relief Fund, Women's Apparel Association, Stage Women's War Relief, Blind and Crippled Relief Fund, Polish Reconstruction Association, War Children's Relief Fund, American Library Association, The Sun Tobacco Fund, Fatherless Children of France, Inc., American Poets' Ambulances in Italy, Children's Tin Box Fund, Our Dumb Friends' League, National Honor Guards of the United States.

Favored Bill That Would Curb Actions of Meaneast Swindlers

On October 12, 1918, THE NEW YORK HERALD published an editorial favoring United States Senate bill 4792, introduced in consequence of the revelations by the District Attorney's office and the activity of the American Victory Union. The editorial stated:

Investigations have revealed that more than \$4,000,000 contributed by patriotic citizens in New York city to private war organizations had been misappropriated or diverted for the enrichment of private individuals instead of going for the war relief and welfare work for which the money was solicited. Many organizations have been obliged to discontinue on account of irregularities and convictions obtained. . . . The only proper way of controlling the evil is for Congress to enact a law "with teeth in it" which will land these meanest of all swindlers in jail for long terms.

By lack of business methods and efficiency in conduct and management wasteful activities resulted in many undertakings for really worthy objects, and insufficient and grossly inadequate returns were made. Duplication of activities by societies competing for funds for the same or similar ends was especially disastrous in the war chests organized by thirty or more of the principal cities of the country. The affairs of some of these have been wound up since the armistice, but a number of them are still active. Among the

Curious Customs in Snowbound Lands

ALTHOUGH the Eskimos have no national game, they lack neither in number nor in variety the diversions suited to their life. In this relation it is of interest to note the games which are played by children along the shores of Bering Sea, where, hard as life is, children can still find pastimes that put them on an equal footing with those of more favored races.

Football is played with a bag stuffed with hair. "Tag" is the same game the world over. Children are fond of "teetering," standing upon the end of the plank instead of sitting down. Another amusement, which requires skill, is the being tossed up in a blanket. A walrus hide is used, and the trial of skill is to see who can stand on his feet and be tossed into the air the highest.

Small children have miniature sleds which they load with mice skins and all sorts of trinkets, so as to play trader. Boys practise archery.

Of course they slide down hill, but the sled is the seat of a stout pair of deerkin trousers.

Athletics are also much indulged in. One difficult feat is to walk on the hands, the legs being outside of the arms and held straight out in front, parallel with the ground.

Lifting matches are also frequent, but very few natives are as strong as the average white man. Hurling the spear is likewise practised; and small darts guided by goose feathers are thrown with great accuracy, so that they often hit a mark at thirty feet. The faculty to throw a stone is innate in every boy. In fact, the small boy is the same the world over.

Girls play with dolls carved out of ivory, which they dress up after their own fashion in clothing of ermine, mice or other skins. One of their games is to kick a ball of ice or snow about the size of a baseball, the object being to keep it in the air all the time without touching it with their hands.

They also toss pebbles very skillfully, some being able to keep six or seven in the air at a time with one hand. They frequently wear bracelets of snow, on which are strung bits of iron, brass or anything that will jingle. Stones are tossed in the air, the hands crossing each other between the

tosses, jingling the bracelets, keeping time and accompanying the play with a sort of chant.

AMONG the picturesque sketches of scenes in Japan are those of villages half-buried beneath undrifted snow.

How such conditions are produced is explained by an American observer who has lived in that country. Specifically, he mentions the case of a village near the beach of the Sea of Japan.

A curious effect is produced by the long galleries running in front of the lower stories of the dwellings which afford a means of passage from house to house when the streets are, as is often the case, deep blocked with winter snow.

The excessive snowfall in the region and on the northwestern spurs of the main chain of the Japanese Alps is an interesting phenomenon. The explanation is simple enough. As the cold northeasterly wind sweeps over from Siberia across the Sea of Japan it is there mingled with a warmer and moister air, so that when it finally reaches the western face of the range this moisture is precipitated in an abundant snowfall on the west flank and summits of the range. Consequently, in the winter and the early spring an extraordinary contrast strikes the traveler.

On the west the valleys lie deep in snow under a sky often hidden in a dark veil of clouds. On the east, however, for months together, a bright sky smiles on valleys and plains comparatively uncovered.

It is to meet the exigencies of this heavy snowfall that galleries are constructed. The inhabitants are compelled to live in the upper story and additional light and air are then admitted through a paper window in a sort of chimney. So deeply are whole villages occasionally buried that the various houses can be distinguished only by signposts stuck in the snow or fixed on the roofs.

The following sorts of inscriptions are used to point out public buildings: "The Post Office is beneath this spot." "You will find the police station buried below."